

## Town Council Meeting: 11 December 2006



Town of Garrett Park  
PO Box 84  
4600 Waverly Avenue  
Garrett Park, MD 20896

Regular Meeting of Town Council  
Garrett Park Town Hall  
10814 Kenilworth Avenue  
Garrett Park, MD 20896

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### MINUTES

**Call to Order:** Mayor Shawaker called the meeting to order at 9:00 PM. In attendance were Councilmembers Altar, Benjamin, Irons, Soltan and Wegner and Administrator Pratt. Also present was Margaret Soltan of the *Bugle* and a number of Town residents.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as posted without objection.

**Variance Hearing:** The variance hearing for 4805 Oxford Street: Tim & Monica Tinker – Enclosure of a carport attached to a non-conforming structure with no expansion of lot coverage was continued to the January meeting at the request of the applicants.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Penn Place Parking Committee – Councilmember Soltan introduced in turn Penn Place Parking Committee Chair Dennis Collins and committee members Chris Keller, Chuck Berry, and Dick Pratt. Dennis Collins briefly reviewed the committee's activities and presented its report to the Council, noting that there were 4 scenarios: The "Adopted Plan" which had been approved by the Council in February of 2005, reinstalling the planted divider between the traffic lanes on Rokeby in front of the railway station calling for a sidewalk along Rokeby, creating a traffic turn around at the West end of the area, and having angled head in parking on the North side and parallel parking on the South side; The "Do Nothing Plan" which would leave the area in its current layout with necessary repaving and the installation of a sidewalk along the westerly side of Rokeby Ave.; and alternatives "Plan A" and "Plan B." Mr. Collins noted that the "Adopted Plan" and the "Do Nothing Plan" had received little or no support, and that the Committee was evenly divided in support for the alternatives.

Chris Keller then reviewed "Plan A" with the Council, which proposed placing all parking in the center of the area with a partial sidewalk on the easterly side of Rokeby Avenue and a full sidewalk along its westerly side.

Chuck Berry then reviewed "Plan B" with the Council, which proposed 90 degree head-in parking along both the easterly and westerly sides of Rokeby Avenue and the installation of a partial sidewalk along its westerly side.

Dick Pratt then reviewed a comparison of all 4 scenarios, presented in the form of a matrix.

After discussion the Mayor thanked the Committee for its hard work, congratulated it for an excellent report, and indicated that the Council would review the report and discuss it in detail at a future meeting.

- Right of Way Committee – Councilmember Soltan presented an up-dated draft report from the Right of Ways Committee and asked for additional input from Councilmembers

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Shawaker noted that the Strathmore street lights were finally turned on. She reported that Superintendent Frost had fabricated reflective warning flags for pedestrians, and had installed flag holders at all Strathmore crosswalks. The Mayor also thanked the Citizens Association for hosting the recent community meeting on pedestrian safety, noting that a petition to make the Kenilworth traffic light a fully-functional light had over 250 signatures. She planned to present a copy of the petition to an upcoming meeting with SHA traffic engineers along with discussing with them the possibility of using the US Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School funding to further improve pedestrian safety along the entire Strathmore-Knowles corridor from Wisconsin Avenue to Beach Drive.

Mayor Shawaker also reported on her attendance at the Montgomery County inauguration, and that she and all the Councilmembers, along with Matt Stavish and Gene Brantley from the citizens association and resident Pat Keating had attended a Committee for Montgomery legislative breakfast.

The Mayor reported that she was working with Pepco to expedite the filing for a proper rate for the new Town street lights with the Public Service Commission, that she had discussed the location of routing hubs with Verizon, which has agreed to reposition all three of the hubs in Town, and that she had confirmed with Town Attorney David Podolsky that the Town had the right to regulate the placement of utility structures and poles on its property, including right of ways.

Mayor Shawaker reported that Kfoury Construction had submitted a final bill for work on Penn Place in the amount of \$149,000 and had proposed to split costs of refinishing the street level floor, the Town's share being approximately \$7,000. These had been referred to the Penn Place Committee for review.

The Mayor noted that it had been a very busy and difficult month and thanked the many residents who had come forward to assist in many ways. She noted that she would be out of Town from December 19<sup>th</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup> and appointed Councilmember Altar Acting Mayor during that time.

### **Councilmember's Reports**

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

- Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the minutes of the 11/13/2006 Regular Council Meeting be adopted as distributed. Councilmember Altar seconded the motion which **PASSED** unanimously.

- Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

That the minutes of the 11/19/2006 Special Council Meeting be adopted as distributed. Councilmember Wegner seconded the motion, which **PASSED** unanimously. Councilmember Benjamin requested that the resolution on traffic initiatives, which had been widely distributed, be modified to comply with the action taken by the Council, as documented in these minutes.

**Action/Discussion:**

- Resolution to Grant Verizon a Non-exclusive Franchise for Cable Television – Mayor Shawaker referred the Council to the draft resolution prepared by Town Lawyer David Podolsky. After a brief discussion, Councilmember Benjamin **MOVED**

The resolution prepared by Attorney David Podolsky granting Verizon Maryland, Inc. a non-exclusive franchise for the operation of cable communications within the corporate limits of Garrett Park, with corrections on pages 10 and 11 of the document. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wegner and **PASSED** unanimously. A copy of the resolution is attached to these minutes.

Councilmember Benjamin then further **MOVED**

That Mayor Shawaker be authorized to execute all necessary agreements to fulfill the intent of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Altar and **PASSED** unanimously.

- Introduction of Ordinance 2006-04: Amending Section 812 of the Garrett Park Code to Reduce the Town Speed Limit to 20 MPH – Councilmember Altar **Moved**

That Section 812 of the Garrett Park Code of Ordinances, *Speed of Motor Vehicles*, is hereby amended by replacing the last four words of the section “25 miles per hour” with the words “20 miles per hour.” Councilman Wegner restated his view that this would not affect driving behavior in town. That without enforcement, which a recent citizen survey showed the majority opposed, this would be ineffective. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Soltan and was **PASSED** unanimously.

**Town Administrator Report:**

Town Administrator Pratt presented the Monthly Financial Report to the Council.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

[ TOWN SEAL ]

Edwin Pratt, Jr., Clerk-Treasurer